



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” ~ U.S. Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776***

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Commissioner Donahue and State Senator Teresa Lubbers attended the grand opening of the Miami Braille Project at Miami Correctional Facility. The program teaches 20 offenders to transcribe textbooks into Braille textbooks through collaboration with PEN Products, the Indiana Department of Education, the Center for Exceptional Learning, and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

During its recent ACA audit, Branchville Correctional Facility was recommended for re-accreditation by passing 100% of all mandatory standards and 97.7% of the non-mandatory standards.

This week, 45 men graduated from the PLUS Unit at Westville Correctional Facility. The guest speaker was Mr. Edwin W. Vance, an integral instructor for the program and a volunteer at WCC for twenty years.

12 Indiana State Prison offenders and their spouses participated in the preservation and relationship enhancement program (PREP) last weekend. One of the offenders indicated, “The techniques and materials definitely have enhanced my life and my relationship.”

Madison Correctional Facility sent 35 offenders to assist the City of Madison in preparation for this weekend’s Regatta. Offenders cleaned up the waterfront and painted the judge’s stand where Governor Daniels will be presenting the Governor’s Cup at the conclusion of the weekend’s unlimited hydroplane boat races and festival.

Henryville Correctional Facility celebrated the completion of its Anger Management Program by having a picnic for the 16 graduates of the three month-long program that focused on coping with anger and realizing alternatives to anger.

Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted an Independence Day Celebration for offenders. The cookout featured smoked sausage, sides, and soft drinks, and the band Beta Male performed.

The Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Assistant Director of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association toured the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) to learn about re-entry in an effort to improve Louisiana’s own transition programs.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held an Independence Day Celebration Program. The Praise Team offender band sang various inspirational songs for the staff, volunteers and other employees. In addition, the offenders provided a special presentation of pictures and images that recognized all branches of the military, as well as the fallen soldiers. The Praise Team will be performing for the offender population on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Henryville Correctional Facility staff transported 15 offenders who are presently in the Inside Out Dads program to State Route #60 in Salem to clean up debris as part of a community service project. The offenders collected over 40 bags of trash.

The Indiana Women’s Prison PLUS offenders are performing a Freedom Presentation on July 4<sup>th</sup> for the open population offenders and staff. The presentation is a self-written and self-directed arrangement that portrays different interpretations of freedom.